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# ***LABOUR ORGANISER***

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## Situations Vacant

**WALSALL SOUTH C.L.P.** invites applications for the post of full-time agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 28th May, 1956.

**CLEVELAND C.L.P.** invites applications for the post of full-time agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 5th June, 1956.

**DEVIZES C.L.P.** invites applications for the post of full-time agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 5th June, 1956.

**EASTLEIGH C.L.P.** invites applications for the post of full-time agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 5th June, 1956.

**EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE C.L.P.** invites applications for the post of full-time agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 5th June, 1956.

**BLACKLEY (Manchester) C.L.P.** invites applications for the post of full-time agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 5th June, 1956.

**RUTLAND & STAMFORD C.L.P.** invites applications for the post of full-time agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 5th June, 1956.

**IPSWICH C.L.P.** invites applications for the post of full-time agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the **National Agent, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1**, to whom they should be returned not later than 15th June, 1956.

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## THE LABOUR PARTY REQUIRES ORGANISING ASSISTANTS for appointment to the following areas :

**PRESTON and CHORLEY  
BURY & RADCLIFFE and BOLTON  
BRADFORD**

Application forms and conditions of appointment are obtainable from THE NATIONAL AGENT, THE LABOUR PARTY, TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1. In replying to this advertisement applicants should state the area for which they are seeking an appointment.

Application forms must be returned to the NATIONAL AGENT not later than 5th JUNE, 1956



# THE LABOUR ORGANISER

EDITOR: A. L. WILLIAMS

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## *Local Elections Have National Significance*

**T**HOUGH there are no county council or parish council elections, the triennial elections of the 28 metropolitan boroughs fall this year and some 9,000 council seats have to be filled throughout the country and it is estimated that there will be contests for about 6,000.

These are the first council elections since the Tory Government was returned and they are sure to be regarded as a test of the Government's standing among the more politically minded electors.

Though local issues and personalities are still important in local council elections, in recent years there has been a tendency for national policies to loom larger and larger in the campaigns. This year's contests will be no exception, especially since Government policy has had such a direct and far reaching influence on local government.

The cutting of the housing subsidy as well as the effects of the credit squeeze on local government borrowing will be the chief targets for attack by most Labour candidates.

However, the discovery of national political trends in council seats won and lost can be misleading, because the situation is complicated by the number of seats that are being defended by the rival parties. Labour made substantial gains in 1953 and will be

defending while the Tories will be attacking these seats in the present elections. Labour need not be dissatisfied to hold its 1953 gains, and to win many more seats will be an accomplishment of considerable significance.

The fate of the Liberal candidates in Coventry, where they are fighting all of the wards, will be a pointer to a possibility of a Liberal revival in the next General Election, and the fate of the Communists, who as usual can only succeed at the expense of Labour, might be some indication of the propaganda value to the Communist Party of the visit of Bulganin and Khrushchev.

Local Labour Parties will do well to submit the results in their areas to close examination. Many parties will be trying out new methods of electioneering and the examination will enable them to discover the weaknesses of the new methods as well as their advantages over more traditional ways of running elections.

Generally, the local contests should be thought of as part of the exercise to improve our election machinery, which is recognised as one of the most urgent tasks facing the Party. Also, the canvass records can be made the beginning of a completely marked constituency register and can be used for membership recruitment.

For these reasons, though no big changes in representation are likely, the local elections of 1956 are of first rate importance to the Labour Party.

# BRIGHT ELECTION ADDRESSES

by *Compositor*

**C**ONTROVERSY has always centred around the value of the printed word, though the point of controversy might change. The old argument was that the printed word brought enlightenment to the masses, while others argued that it debased them.

Now the new discussion point is whether, in these days of television, wireless and sexy but 'un-newsy' newspapers, etc., its power for good or evil has waned.

Of one thing I am certain. No matter how strong the views of an individual may be on the power of the printed word, it would be a brave candidate who, by deliberate choice, dispensed with his election address and sent no printed material to his electors.

It is obvious that there is some truth in the arguments both for and against the importance of print. It is an overall balance of view that is required. A simple analysis would show, I am sure, that interesting and attractive literature still creates interest, while the dull unimaginative approach stands little chance of being read.

This being so, the kind of election material issued by candidates is always of considerable interest. The cost of print is high, whether well produced or not, so it deserves one's thought and attention.

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Some parties have sent in copies of their local election addresses and other printed material, most of a very high standard. In some the approach is original, in others it is formal yet neat and clear. Cost has obviously been a deciding factor in a few cases. Large boroughs, of course, have a great advantage over small places, both in the amount of money that can be spent and the kind of printer that can be employed.

For instance, Coventry has produced an excellent four-page, two-colour, 11 in. x 8½ in. election address. Not only have they included apt illustrations to give emphasis to the points made by the candidate in his message, but also featured a most telling and topical strip cartoon. A composite

photograph of selected newspaper cuttings completes the picture.

In the Coventry address, as in the one produced by the Acton Party, the lesson that a few pertinent words carry far more weight than chunks of text, has been well learned. Acton's election address is in two colours (red and black as Coventry's) but they decided on yellow paper instead of white. In this case illustration is confined to a small photograph of the candidate.

Acton has created an interest point by concentrating on the fact that in the Local Government Elections of last May 23,652 electors 'didn't bother' to vote. The address then proceeds to give brief but pertinent information.

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Doncaster, however, really 'cashes in' on the electors—perhaps the credit squeeze was an influencing factor. In this case the front page (red and black) is displayed in the form of a cheque, but yet all is typeset and therefore not costly. Inside there is a photograph of the candidate and his address of some 170 words is very much to the point.

There is one important factor that should be borne in mind when displaying a number of brief points in an election address—the necessity of making sure it does not appear to be 'bits and pieces'. There must be continuity otherwise the reader's interest will be lost.

There is also the need to ensure that what is being read is fully understood. Short, clear sentences, written in everyday language, should be the criterion. After all, the average elector is not well versed in high politics or involved argument.

In addition to the election address, Doncaster has produced a neat card for the use by candidates when no one is at home. This is printed in two colours, having a red edging, top and sides, with black printing on a light tinted background. The wording simply introduces the name of the Labour candidate for the ward and concludes with the words 'Sorry you were out when I called.'

There is little doubt that this election material will create sufficient interest to be picked up and be read. Remember, that is the purpose of all election material—to be picked up and read.



# Voluntary Collecting has Failed

THE fact must be faced that the voluntary method of collection has never been really successful and is now proving increasingly inadequate. Before the war we relied to a considerable extent on unemployed and under-employed people to do much of the Party's work, including collecting. To-day that labour force is simply not available.

Alongside of the voluntary method of collecting goes normally the de-centralisation of control. Little or no control is effected by any constituency officer, the whole operation being carried out as if it were a ward responsibility. This is both constitutionally unsound and practically ineffective.

There is no doubt that it is the Constituency Labour Party in borough constituencies and the Local Labour Party in county constituencies which is responsible for its membership. A ward committee's responsibility is limited to the maintenance of election machinery and (with the approval of the constituency or local executive) for propaganda work.

## DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY

It is, of course, competent for a constituency or local party to delegate responsibility for the organisation of its membership to any or all of its ward committee: but it is not bound to do so and, if it does, is not thereby relieved from its own responsibility.

It is too much to expect that all ward units will be at a high state of efficiency, in one particular, all the time, but if only a quarter of the wards of the constituency are operating in respecting of membership recruitment and maintenance at less than a high state of efficiency, **it is impossible to develop the membership of the Party.**

The largest constituency party in the country (South Lewisham) has a membership of 7,500 representing 31.5 per cent of the Labour vote. It has held this position for a long time. In 1955 the total of subscriptions collected was £1,700, an average on the total card issue of 4s. 6d.

The largest two-constituency party (Woolwich) has a membership of 11,200 representing 24.7 per cent of the Labour vote. It, too, has held this position for many years.

The average collected for 1955 was 4s. 5d.

There is nothing radically different about these constituencies from hundreds of others. If the lower of these two percentages could be applied to half of the constituencies throughout the country (comprising mainly marginals and near-marginals) even with a much lower percentage in the safe Labour seats, **we could be assured of a membership steady at the two million mark.**

## METHOD OF OPERATION

### (1) Appointment of Collectors

This is done solely on the responsibility of the agent.

### (2) Supervision of Collectors

The agent is entirely responsible for the work of every collector.

### (3) Remuneration of Collectors

Payment of commission at the rate of 33½ per cent is made to all collectors.

### (4) Record of Subscriptions

This is maintained centrally. There is a record card for every every member. No record is required at ward level, but ward and polling district officers are regularly advised of all alterations, including new members, lapses, etc.

### (5) Recruitment of Membership

This is done by a combination of central and ward effort and is always related to the existing or prospective collecting facility.

### (6) Collectors as ordinary workers

Collectors are not discouraged from doing other work for the Party, but they are not expected to do the general work in their areas which would be carried out by voluntary workers in the ordinary way. No special difficulty in getting voluntary workers, arising from the remuneration of collectors, has shown itself.

It is obviously not essential that there should be a full-time agent and where one does not exist, some other suitable officer could act. The advantage of having an agent in this respect is not so much that he can give more oversight than can a voluntary worker, as that he, too, is a remunerated person and the relationship between the agent and collector is likely to be an easier one than might sometimes be the case were only the collector being paid.

It is interesting to note that in both the parties named above, there is a clerical

assistant who has most of the actual contact with the collector. These assistants are able to be employed additionally to the agent because of the large income drawn from the membership but it could well be that such an Officer might be employed where no agency was contemplated.

It is important to remember that the income in direct subscriptions is by no means the whole of the contribution from the membership to Party funds, and given reasonable clerical assistance this side of the finances of the party can be much expanded even without a full-time Agent.

#### NORMAL SYSTEM

It is not suggested that this type of organisation is suitable for all constituencies. Possibly all genuinely rural areas must have some other method but it is contended that in a large proportion of constituencies the existence of large and medium-sized towns makes it practicable to adopt this as the normal system with adaptations to meet local requirements.

It is recognised that a good effort has been made by the Party through the de-centralised, voluntary method. Here and there exceptionally good results have been secured, but all too often these have not continued for long or have not obtained over a wide enough area to produce a really satisfactory position.

Twenty years ago we set ourselves the target of a million members. This figure has, indeed, been touched twice but it is clearly difficult for us to be assured of even this number under our present arrangements: we ought certainly to have a two-million target now before us.

J. W. RAISIN

### **Two Bites of the Cherry**

WE heard the other day of a Party member who wondered if he was entitled to two bites of the cherry.

He resides in a constituency where by virtue of residence he is entitled to a Parliamentary and a local government vote. He is also entitled to a non-resident vote for local government purposes in a constituency in another electoral area.

He is an individual member in the constituency where he resides. He was appointed by his union to represent his branch as an affiliated member on the General Committee of the Constituency Labour Party where he is entitled to a non-

resident vote.

His problem? Can he claim his rights as an individual member in one constituency, and his rights as a delegate from his trade union in the other?

His problem was not made any easier when the Constituency General Committee he attends as an affiliated member appointed him as a delegate to an organisation to which it was affiliated. Here he met delegates from the constituency where he is an individual member who challenged him as to his rights to be present as he had not been appointed by their party.

What guidance do the Party constitution and rules give in such a situation?

First let us turn to the Party Constitution Clause III 'Conditions of Membership' section 3.

Each Individual Member must 'Unless temporarily resident abroad, be a member of a Constituency Labour Party, either (i) where he or she resides, or (ii) where he or she is registered as a Parliamentary or Local Government elector.'

#### MODEL RULES

On turning to the model rules of the Party we find this principle is clearly embodied in Clause IV section 2 paragraph (c).

Determined to do the job thoroughly we then turned to Clause VII Section 6 of the model rules laying down the conditions for the appointment of delegates. Here we learn that "delegates must be resident in the . . . or be registered as Parliamentary or Local Government electors therein."

It appears to me that all depends on the interpretation of the words 'either' and 'or'. Do these words imply 'one or the other', or 'here and there'.

It seems to me that in the Labour Party a person with dual rights in electoral law should only have the same rights as a member whose electoral rights are based only on his residence qualification. In other words . . . he should opt which party he will join and serve.

What do your readers think?

### **PARTY AGENT**

Though not disagreeing with 'Party Agent' on the intention of the constitution and rules, we must emphasise that they are in fact silent about the eligibility of a person to be a delegate to one Constituency Labour Party and an individual member of another.

EDITOR.



*The new bill relating to private lotteries is almost certain to become law shortly. In this article Len Sims explains its provisions*

# Lottery Bill's Provisions

THE law relating to betting and lotteries has always cast its shadow over the activities of local parties who endeavour to supplement their finances by means of draws, weekly football schemes, whist drives, etc.

The Betting and Lotteries Act of 1934, laid down that all lotteries were illegal except those specifically permitted by statute. These were of two kinds: (1) small lotteries; (2) private lotteries.

## SMALL LOTTERIES

The small lottery was one incidental to bazaars, sales of work, dances, etc., and had to be run within very restricted limits, including its being organised and decided upon during the progress of the entertainment.

The private lottery, under which Derby draws, football competitions and the like are run, had to be confined to (a) members of one society established and conducted for purposes not connected with gaming, wagering or lotteries; (b) persons, all of whom worked on the same premises; (c) persons, all of whom resided on the same premises. In each case the lottery must be promoted by persons included in the above categories.

The position in respect of our Party was further complicated by a judgment given by Lord Goddard in 1948. This stated that if a society was broken up into a number, be it large or small of local or affiliated branches or sections, each of those was a separate society.

Now there is every likelihood of the law being amended. A Private Member's Bill, sponsored by Mr. Ernest Davies, M.P., has received the approval of the House of Commons and will shortly be considered by the Lords. If it passes the Lords and receives the Royal Assent, many organisations will be able to run small lotteries and whist drives without any fear of police action, provided they keep within the provisions laid down.

The main provisions of the Bill, after amendment on the Third Reading, are as follows:

(i) The promoter of the lottery must be a member of the society and be author-

ised in writing by the governing body to act on their behalf.

- (ii) No prize shall exceed £100 in amount or value, and the price per ticket must not exceed 1s. with the price being the same for all. This means there can be no free tickets.
- (iii) The total value of the tickets sold must not exceed £750.
- (iv) The whole proceeds, after deducting the expenses must be applied to the purpose of the society. The amount of expenses must not exceed the actual expenses incurred or 10 per cent of the proceeds whichever is the less, and the amount appropriated for prizes must not exceed one-half of the total income.

## NO ADVERTISEMENT

There is also a provision that no notice or advertisement shall be exhibited, except that exhibited on the premises of the society or distributed to its members, or such notice as may be contained on the tickets.

Each ticket must bear the name of the society and the name and address of the promoter. A welcome change comes in the fact that there is now provision for tickets to be sent through the post so long as this is confined to members.

It is also interesting to note that a person having participated in the lottery cannot claim his money back.

Another important provision is that only one lottery can be organised at a time. The time is laid down as beginning with the issuing of the first ticket and ending on the date on which the prize winners are determined.

## MUST REGISTER

If a society wishes to participate in lotteries it will be necessary to make application for registration with the local authority. A registration fee of £1 is to be charged and an annual fee of £1, payable on January 1st, will also be necessary. All such applications have to be entered in a register kept for the purpose and the society notified in writing of their entry.

It is also laid down that the promoter of the lottery must, not later than the end of January next after the month in which the

lottery is run, send the local authority a return showing:

- (a) the whole proceeds of the lottery,
- (b) the sums appropriated on account of expenses and prizes, and
- (c) the particular purpose or purposes to which the proceeds of the lottery were applied.

The local authority will be required to hold the return for one year, and during that period it will be open to inspection by the public free of charge, during office hours.

Any person who fails to send in a return or knowingly gives information which is false or misleading, will be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £20.

The legality of running any kind of small card or gaming party has always been in doubt, and this Bill aims to permit these small parties.

### GAMING PARTY

If the Bill becomes law, it will be possible to promote a 'small card or gaming party' for money-raising purposes on behalf of a society—but not for private gain. The entertainment can be a game of chance or a game where chance and skill are combined.

It is laid down that only one payment can be made by each player in respect of all the games at the entertainment, and that the maximum charge is 5s. Similarly only one distribution of prizes is permitted in respect of all the games played. The total value of all prizes and awards is not to exceed £20.

The whole of the proceeds, after deducting expenses and prizes must be given to the society. In this case the amount of expenses is not laid down as in the case of lotteries, but it must not exceed the amount reasonably required to meet the actual cost of the facilities provided for the purpose of the game. This is understandable as the cost of halls, etc., must vary considerably.

## S. SALDANHA

WE regret to report the death of Mr. S. Saldanha, since 1951 Agent to the Norwood Constituency Labour Party.

Mr. Saldanha was travelling North for an interview with the Cleveland Constituency Labour Party in connection with the agency appointment when he was taken ill and died.

Before becoming a full-time agent Mr. Saldanha was an active Party member in Mitcham and held many offices, including that of Constituency Secretary.

## TRAINING SCHEME FOR AGENTS

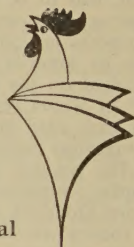
A NEW plan for the training of members to become full-time Party agents and organisers has been adopted by the National Executive Committee.

This provides for two months' residential training followed by a month's practical training in the field. During training students will receive a salary at the rate of £450 per annum and where necessary a lodging allowance of £5 a week. The first period of training will take place in London and the course will cover canvass and committee room systems, election law, party organisations, office methods, etc.

Though employment cannot be guaranteed, at the end of each three months' course suitable trainees should have little difficulty in obtaining posts, especially in view of the number of vacancies to be filled under the regional schemes of assistance to Constituency Labour Parties.

It is expected that six students will take the first course which is to start in May.

### UNIQUE AND ORIGINAL



Nowadays to attract readers every national daily newspaper has to publish some news—however unreliable—about Labour politics and trade unionism.

But alone amongst them the unique DAILY HERALD is pledged to support T.U.C. and Labour Party policies. In it you will also find crisp descriptive reports on world and home events as well as the most original human interest stories in any daily newspaper.

## DAILY HERALD

*Circulates Labour's Case*



# Handling Delegates' Reports

EVERY party appoints delegates to attend business and educational conferences, and delegates attending are under an obligation to report back to the organisations supporting them.

The obligation is not all on one side. Having asked the delegates to prepare a report it should be assured of a place on the agenda. There is nothing more aggravating to delegates who have spent a good deal of time preparing a report than to find it is crowded out of the agenda, or that it will be dealt with at the next meeting, when it will be out of date and no one could care less.

If a number of delegates are appointed to the same conference, as is often the case, they should provide a joint report and decide which delegate shall present it. There are occasions when the main report can be usefully supplemented by other delegates.

Sometimes a conference deals with a number of subjects. In such instances it can be very helpful if the delegation can arrange to share the work of reporting by each concentrating on a particular aspect of the conference.

## Written Report

It is always better to present a written report. The most experienced delegate is apt to forget important points if the report is given verbally.

When the report has been presented it is the chairman's duty to ask for the following motion: "That the report be accepted as having been read."

If the report has been given verbally the motion should be "That the report be accepted as having been given." This should be moved and seconded and put to the meeting as a formal motion. The chairman should then ask "Is there anything arising from the report?"

The meeting may then proceed to a general discussion and it is entitled, if it so desires, to take any action arising out of the report. When the chairman is satisfied that discussion is exhausted he should then ask for a motion "The report be approved".

It is not a bad idea to add the following words "and that the thanks of the meeting be accorded to the delegates". We are apt to

forget that delegates give up valuable time in attending conferences very often when they could be having a leisurely week-end, and that considerable time has then to be devoted to the preparation of a report.

Unless delegates are practised shorthand writers they should avoid trying to give a verbatim report. It is impossible to do this with any degree of accuracy, and it is far better to convey in a report the principal points of the discussion and any decisions which are taken. Delegates can always give more detailed information in replying to questions.

## Auditors' Report

Correct procedure is not always followed in the presentation of a balance sheet and the auditors' report thereon. The balance sheet itself should be read by the auditors and not by the treasurer, as is often the case. The auditors' duty is to report on the condition of the books and to do so in such a way that it is clear that the balance sheet is a true reflection of the financial position of the party.

It is not part of an auditor's duty to criticise the financial policy of the party, as that is a matter for the organisation itself to deal with. When the auditors have reported it is the chairman's duty to put to the meeting the following motion "That the report and balance sheet should be accepted as having been read".

There should be no discussion on this motion as the auditors are the only people who can say whether the accounts they have audited are correct. The chairman should then ask for the following motion to be moved "That the Auditors' Report and Balance Sheet be approved".

When this motion has been seconded the meeting is at liberty to have a full discussion on the accounts, and it will be at this point that the treasurer will make his observations. A meeting is entitled to refuse to accept an item on a balance sheet and in that case an amendment should be moved in the following terms "That item — on the balance sheet be referred back to the auditors".

If such a motion should be carried then when the final motion is put to the meeting it should be "That the report and balance sheet as amended be approved".

# NOW IS THE TIME FOR

**P**ARTY members will be asked to shoulder heavy burdens in future months in carrying out the programme of activities formulated by the National Executive Committee.

The programme includes a complete electoral canvass by the end of 1957, a membership campaign, the organisation of young supporters in the new Youth sections and the development of political education.

This programme can be carried through if it is tackled in the right way, which means correct phasing and the integration of the different activities into one unified plan.

## **Unified Plan**

From the information collected during the electoral canvass will come the information about Labour supporters who can be approached to join the Party. From new members recruited there will be found additional workers for further canvassing. Among these new members will be young people, whose special interests can be catered for by Youth sections. The development of educational activity will provide the means of interesting the new recruits in the principles and policy of the Labour Party and of consolidating their support.

The success of this drive to strengthen the Party in readiness for the next General Election will depend on our success in the canvass and in the recruitment of members.

A considerable amount of canvassing takes place at every local government election, but very often the information, which has been collected by extremely hard work, is completely lost after polling day. Yet, this information can be the foundation for a complete and up to the minute record of the political sympathies of the electors, without which no party can even pretend to function efficiently.

## **Election Records**

It is more essential this year than ever before that the local election records should be preserved. Where they are complete, they can be used for the membership canvass,

after the information they contain has been transferred to the constituency's marked register. Where they are not, a further canvass can be planned to cover those areas not canvassed during the election.

It is not necessary to wait until the whole constituency has been thoroughly canvassed before starting to recruit new members. Indeed, complete constituency coverage is a practical proposition only where there is a large membership to do the work.

In practice the two jobs go side by side and, if carried out persistently and systematically, by the end of next year there should not only be a larger membership, but also more adequate electoral records.

The Labour Party has never given sufficient attention to individual membership. Though complaints about trade union domination have been long and loud, it was not until 1952 that it was possible to report that the Party had over one million individual members as against over five million affiliated members. Since then, the individual membership has dropped every year and the 1955 figure represents a drop of 15 per cent in three years.

## **General Fall**

The fall in individual membership has been general, but it has been steeper in some regions than in others. It is not without significance that the decline has been less in the regions which had a high individual membership. The truth is that parties with many members find it easier to keep them than parties with few members.

In the present campaign all regions will have a target set higher than their membership in the record year of 1952, but the greatest effort will have to be made by the regions which have consistently lagged behind. The Eastern, London and Southern regions have always led the field, while in recent years Yorkshire, Wales and Scotland have been content with the rear positions. The national average individual membership per constituency in 1955 was 1,359, and though the average for the Eastern region was 2,035, for Scotland it was only 729.

It has been repeated *ad nauseam* that "it



# BIG STEP FORWARD!

is easy to get members, but difficult to retain them". This has been used as an excuse by some parties not to recruit members at all. Where members have been enrolled and allowed to lapse in a few weeks it demonstrates failure to take recruiting seriously and to plan it efficiently.

Obviously, there is no point in bringing into the Party large numbers if no arrangement has been made to collect their contributions regularly and to keep them in touch with Party activities. Last September NALSO canvassers enrolled new members and *new collectors* and over six months later it has been found that the bulk of the new members are still paying their contributions and the new collectors collecting them.

## First Phase

That is why it is intended that the first phase of the present campaign, which is to start immediately after the local elections, is to be concerned with the overhauling of the collecting machinery and the recruitment of additional collectors. When this has been done, the second phase of the campaign will begin and will be concerned with the recruitment of members on a large scale.

The Regional Councils have the responsibility of setting the quotas of recruits to be gained by each of their Constituency Labour Parties. Though the quotas will vary according to the circumstances of each constituency it is obvious that those with a big Labour vote and a small membership will be set the stiffest task.

Transport House and the Regional Councils will play their part in the campaign, but in the long run its success will depend on the work done by active members in all constituencies.

Each local Labour Party should appoint a committee to plan and supervise the constituency campaign and one of its first aims should be to find a suitable member in every ward, preferably someone not already tied up in Party work, to act as membership secretary. His job will be to keep in touch with the collectors and to deal with any breakdown as it occurs.

With a membership secretary and a suffi-

cient number of collectors in each ward, many parties can double their membership without great effort by adding a few new members in each ward month by month during the campaign.

Such a steady recruitment will not place too great a strain on the collectors, especially if some of the newcomers can be persuaded to take on this important job.

## Many Collectors

A large number of collectors each with a small number to collect from is the ideal to be aimed at, as good workers often are lost by overburdening them, and other members are not drawn into activity because they have not been asked to do a job which is within their capacity and leisure time. And from the collectors are drawn the key people in wards and polling districts in an election.

Conditions during the next 18 months should favour the achieving of the highest individual membership yet reached by the Party. Though slowly, the tide is running against the Tory government: learning the lessons of our defeat in three successive General Elections, Constituency Labour Parties have been paying more attention to organisation, and they will be encouraged by the substantial financial help given under the regional schemes by the National Executive Committee, mainly for increasing the number of full-time agents and organisers.

The psychological effect of a rising membership is as stimulating as a falling membership is depressing, and though a large membership does not solve all the problems of a Constituency Labour Party it goes some way to doing so: there is more money coming in, a greater interest in Party activities, more workers to take on jobs and more hope of winning elections and nothing succeeds like success.

This new campaign must not be a flash in the pan. It must be a well planned, determined effort to raise the morale of the party and to increase its strength, so that it may face with confidence the decisive challenge which will come in 1958, or 1959.

THE EDITOR

# PERSISTENCE WON A TORY WARD

by WALTER BROWN

FOR many years the little ward of St. Mary's in the Borough of Chatham had been nobody's baby. It was part of the Gillingham Parliamentary Constituency and in Chatham for local council elections.

Somewhere in the distant past, around 1927, a Labour candidate had won a seat in a three-cornered contest, but since then the cupboard had been bare. More often than not, members from other wards had to be detailed to go in and 'put up a show to draw off Tory pressure elsewhere.'

The ward comprises the main bulk of Chatham High Street, together with the Military and Naval Barracks, and a few dimly lit back streets in the immediate neighbourhood.

In 1951, a small band of workers centred around the ward chairman and secretary (a young man and his wife) struggled hard to do their bit in the General Election. Outside help was necessary to complete the canvass and to man the polling stations and committee rooms.

After the election, a further effort was made to set up a ward committee—several previous efforts had met with failure, and the young couple carried on by common consent at chairman and secretary, collecting subscriptions from some 35 members—the first meeting was not optimistic—five members present. However, they persevered.

Slowly the membership grew, till it reached three figures, and ward meetings were held regularly. There were still only a very small handful of people at the meeting, which were still held in the chairman's and secretary's house.

## Selecting Candidates

Came the time for selecting candidates for the municipal elections. There were those who openly advocated not contesting, the position was too hopeless. "Better to wait for the by-election following election of aldermen," they said. The ward, however, had different ideas, and selected their candidate and immediately set to work.

Their campaign was carefully planned, and the small band of workers were considerably heartened by the candidate and his wife

coming out each Sunday morning with them.

Each street was tackled and canvassed both for membership and support. No possible vote was allowed to slip through the net, although it might mean going back into the street four or five times until all 'outs' were eliminated. Then on to the next street.

Membership grew and grew, soon the 200 mark was passed. The sceptics offered faint praise, but still doubted the wisdom of contesting the seat.

## Happy Band

On polling day, the whole carefully planned machine went into top gear and they knocked-up until they were out on their feet. Never was there a more tired, but proud and happy band of workers than those who left the count after the election with their successful candidate in their midst. The Labour vote had been increased by 300 to 844, and they had a majority of 122.

Some would have rested on their laurels, but not St. Mary's ward. Hardly a week has gone by in the past four years, without a small team being on the doorstep, canvassing for new members, discussing problems with the people, carefully persuading those who didn't vote last time, that they ought to do so next time.

To realise the full significance of this ward's achievements (they now have three Labour councillors and have won the ward on four successive occasions) one must realise the background against which this ward has battled.

It is in this ward that the council slum clearance scheme is operating, the electorate dwindles by three or four hundred each year. It is not the Tory voters that are moving out, but Labour supporters, and thus each year, the task of winning the ward becomes increasingly difficult.

This is not the only problem. Not only supporters leave the ward for the greater comfort of a new council house, members also are moving out, and many of them active members.

The officers are constantly changing. The original officers of 1951 have long since moved away, but new officers have always been found to carry on the fight in this original tradition of the ward. Often office



have changed hands two and sometimes three times a year, but despite all this the work goes on.

The driving force behind all this, is three live councillors. No one realises more than they do, the difficulties in their ward. They spend every available evening in the hall, meeting members and electors, canvassing, planning, organising. Surely, there was never a better example of the cardinal principle of good organisation as laid down by Harold Croft—Planning and Persistence.

Each loss of electorate and membership, of active member and officer, is met fairly and squarely by discussing the position and planning afresh the organisation.

The ward fully realises that this is really a Tory ward. The carefully prepared marked register shows this. They face the position realistically. "All we have to do," said one councillor, "is to make sure we get more of our voters to the poll than the Tories do." Careful preparations ensure

success in this direction. Every removal is traced and canvassed, transport arranged to bring them back to vote.

The decline in the electorate is slowly winning, last May, they only won by 7 votes. They were not disheartened. Since September they have been making their preparations to retain the seat.

Registrations were carefully checked, a fresh canvass for postal votes was made, regular distribution of leaflets has been undertaken, a newsletter from the councillors on local topics has been circulated monthly.

The Tories fight back harder and harder each year, and are already in the field with weekly literature and canvassing. The small but very gallant band of workers in St. Mary's ward are not discouraged. They know the odds they have to face, and are determined to hold the fort.

All tribute to a gallant band of workers who have conclusively proved that hard work makes for success!

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## *In the Garden of England*

EVERY schoolboy knows that Kent is the Garden of England, and every schoolboy knows that Faversham and district is one of Kent's most highly-cultivated areas.

Every housewife knows its produce—cauliflowers and cabbages, cherries and apples, and fine Kentish hops for the enrichment of English beer.

Every schoolgirl knows that it all started at Teynham, where, to quote Lombarde, " . . . about the yeere of our Lord Christ 1533, our honest patriote Richard Harrup (fruiterer to King Henrie the 8th) planted by his great coste and rare industrie, the sweet cherry, the temperate Pipyn, and the golden Renate."

So began the great cherry garden and apple orchard of Kent. Later there followed other industries—gunpowder making, paper mills, and cement works. Yes! the electors of Faversham live by the sweat of their brows and the skill of their hands.

Every TV viewer remembers the pictures of the great blizzard which smote this corner of England in February, when roads were blocked for weeks and lambs were perishing in the fields.

Today, the ploughs are busy again in the

orchards; in the hop-gardens the women are tying strings over the topwires, and on the lush pastures of Sheppey, fat lambs graze and gambol with well-fed ewes, for this is Maytime!

Over at Labour headquarters in Sittingbourne's High Street, Bill Gray, Party agent, tackles serenely the contents of his May morning mail. Here are letters from local government candidates, an invoice from Transport House, circulars from the National Agent, a bill from the printer, a letter from Dagenham Girl Pipers, and an epistle from a troupe of German trick cyclists!

### **August 25th**

"What's all this about, Bill?" "Where will you be on August 25th?" asked Bill. "Working!" I replied. "Pity," said Bill, "you ought to come to our fete". "Mind you," continued Bill, "it will be a better show than last year".

"How much did you lose on last year's fete?" "Nothing . . . we made a profit of £250!"

"What kind of entertainment did you provide at the fete?"

"A man standing on one hand on the top of a hundred and fifteen feet swaying pole, a circus rodeo, a fireworks display, a drama

show, Punch and Judy, sports and a fun fair."

"How many people attended the fete?"

"More than thirteen thousand!"

But all is not beer and skittles at Faversham. This, like all other success stories, is a tale of sweat and toil.

The Tories also have a fine machine and Labour only held the seat by a majority of 59 at the last General Election.

Faversham Constituency Labour Party has certain grand assets—nearly four and a half thousand individual members, organised in twenty Local Labour Parties. One hundred and forty-nine collectors who go out each week to collect subscriptions. Percy Wells, a Member of Parliament, who, inside and outside the House of Commons, is untiring in his efforts to serve his constituents. Bill Gray, an agent, who gives unstinted of his time and energy to the work of Party building, and, on the First of January 1956, a Balance Sheet which read—"Balance of Assets over Liabilities £3,341 14s. 10d."

In 1955, Faversham comrades engaged in twenty-nine different local government elections, placed 114 Labour candidates in the field of whom 64 were elected.

As for the sweat and toil of the General

Election, this is what electors of the Faversham Constituency received from Labour during the campaign!—

60,000 Election Addresses.

20,000 Election Specials.

20,000 Badge Folders.

21,000 Meeting Handbills.

3,000 Special Letters to Postal Voters.

1,000 Special Letters to Proxy Voters.

700 Special Letters to people who have been assisted by Percy Wells.

2,000 'Percy Wells has called' cards.

3,000 Photo Window Bills.

8,000 Diamond Window Bills.

50,000 Head Office Leaflets.

Every part of the constituency was canvassed except eight villages.

Yes! it was well planned work which won Faversham for the fourth time.

The story of this part of Kent is an epitome of English history. Many races and generations have left their mark.

There is yet another mark in the making—it is a mark of Victory! The victory of great ideals.

**FRANK SHEPHERD**

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# SHOULD WE FIGHT MR. SPEAKER?

IN the Session 1938-39, the House of Commons set up a Select Committee to enquire into the question of the Speaker's Seat. Unfortunately, no representative of the Labour Party who sat on this Committee has survived.

The doctrine of the complete divorcement of the Speaker from party politics is the growth of the last 125 years. Mr. Speaker Manners Sutton seems to be the last occupant of the Chair to exercise his right of political partisanship.

## Catholic Emancipation

He is said to have been careful not to intervene in debates over which he presided, but during the 18 years he held office there were three occasions on which he intervened in Committee, twice on the controversial question of Catholic emancipation (1821 and 1825). It was these speeches which undoubtedly led to his defeat when he stood for re-election as Speaker of the Parliament of 1835.

Subsequent to the defeat of Speaker Manners Sutton, the necessity for complete impartiality became recognised in all parts of the House of Commons. During the long period of 1835-1935 there were only two contests in the Speaker's constituency and both were in exceptional circumstances.

In 1885, Speaker Peel was opposed after there had been a redistribution of seats which incorporated another borough in his constituency. In 1895, when Speaker Gully was opposed at Carlisle, he had been elected as Speaker in the last day of a dying Parliament by 11 votes in a party division in which 559 Members voted.

Sir Bryan Fell, late Clerk of the House, in a Memorandum he prepared for the use of the 1939 Select Committee, says:

During the past 50 years the position of the Chair has completely altered. In some ways it has become more autocratic—it has certainly become completely removed from party politics; it has been charged with the protection of minorities . . . ; by the power to select amendments it has been entrusted with the regulation of debate; and as guardian of the rules of the House it is one of the bulwarks of democracy.

In 1935 Speaker Fitzroy was opposed by a Labour candidate in Daventry. Of that

**THE decision of the National Executive Committee not to agree to the contesting of the Speaker's seat has led to some controversy. This article gives the historical background and a justification for not fighting Mr. Speaker.**

election, Sir Bryan Fell had this comment to make. "These contests are not consonant with the dignity of the Speakership and bring the Office into the party political arena."

To bring the story up to date, from 1935 to the last election, the Speaker's constituency was contested in 1945 (Speaker Clifton-Brown at Hexham by a Labour candidate); in 1950 (Speaker Clifton-Brown at Hexham by an independent "Farmers'" candidate); and again in 1955. (Speaker Morrison at Cirencester by an independent Labour candidate).

Since 1835, therefore, the Speaker's seat has been fought at six General Elections.

This problem of the Speaker's seat may be stated in the following form:—should the House of Commons be deprived of the services of the man they have selected to preside over their deliberations by the 'whim' of the electorate, or should a constituency be disfranchised from a party point of view by having as its Member the Speaker who stands completely outside party politics?

## "St. Stephen's"

There have been suggestions made from time to time that as from the General Election following his election to the Chair Mr. Speaker should be returned for an imaginary constituency, say 'St. Stephen's.' It has been argued that on election to the Chair the Speaker should be deemed to be transferred to the 'St. Stephen's' constituency, but opponents have emphasised that this would contravene long-established constitutional conventions, namely

- (1) that a Member once elected cannot resign his seat;
- (2) that a Member cannot stand for one

(continued on page 97)

# ENVELOPES AND LETTER HEADS

by R. Faulding

**S**TATIONERY covers the raw ingredient and tools of the office worker. Through discriminating purchase and after-care it is possible to get better standards of work as well as economies in time and material.

In the first article on stationery in the April *Labour Organiser* it was only possible to consider what has perhaps the biggest usage in a local party—duplicating paper.

Another large item in the stationery bill is envelopes, of which there are available a great variety of sizes, shapes and styles. The two basic styles are 'banker', where the gummed flap is on the longest side, and 'pocket', where the gummed flap is on the shortest side.

## P.O. Regulations

There are important regulations governing envelopes laid down by the Post Office which are set out in the Post Office Guide. Among others, they prohibit envelopes of unusual size and unusual colour, transparent envelopes and envelopes of poor quality. While strength is a first consideration of an envelope it is more than just a secure cover for a letter. Just as 'clothes maketh man' a good quality envelope can create a favourable impression.

In the interests of economy it is best to standardise the sizes of envelopes and to buy the sizes in bulk. The two essential envelopes for an office are the 9 in. x 4 in. pocket envelope, known as 'foolscap', which will take a sheet of foolscap paper (13 in. x 8 in.) folded in four across its width, and the 5 in. x 3 in. banker envelope known as 'commercial'.

The commercial envelope used by Head Office Finance Department to send out receipts are known as 'high-cut' and give that additional security when sending unsealed envelopes at the cheaper letter rate. 'High-cut' is the name given to an envelope whose back is almost as high as its front.

Envelopes are made from a variety of papers but a medium-weight buff manilla is suitable for general office use, with possibly white-wove parchment for special purposes.

Envelopes are generally boxed in 500's and smaller quantities in boxes are usually obtained from retail stationers, but large

quantities at the moment are obtainable from manufacturers at about three months' delivery. The prices vary with size, quality, style, and of course with quantity, but discounts are usually obtained with purchases in lots over 10,000.

The appeal of an envelope of quality is lost if the enclosed letter is not well dressed. A letterhead of good quality, taste and design can create a good impression in the mind of the recipient. It is a permanent advertisement of the sender, be it for good or bad.

Letterhead paper can be obtained in a wide range of tints. White, the colour to be preferred, is in a variety of shades: cream white, blue-white, snow-white, off-white and cream. There are many qualities of paper available but perhaps a suitable quality can be chosen in consultation with the printer. Generally speaking, a rag-content, tub-sized bond writing paper of pleasant handle and appearance is called for.

The effect of a good paper can be spoiled by the design of the letterhead. Obvious information to be shown is the name of the party, its office address and the telephone number. It is not really necessary to show all the names and addresses of the various officers, especially as they are voluntary and are elected every year. Thus a letterhead may be made obsolete at the annual meeting, when the officers for the new year are elected.

In the same way photographs are out of place on a letterhead. The names of directors of limited companies are required by law to appear on letterheads and documents as laid down by the Companies Act 1948, but the circumstances are different from those of a local party.

## Over half

To take an extreme example, one organisation associated with the Labour movement has a letterhead of which over half is taken up with names of officers and affiliations which leaves some two inches for the body of the letter apart from the salutation and subscription. In addition, the letterhead still quotes its war-time address!

The usual sizes of letterheads for an office are large octavo (8 in. x 5 in.) and large quarto (10 in. x 8 in.), of which the latter is in more frequent use. The appearance



of the printing can be bettered by the use of one type-face in different point sizes. When considering colour it must be remembered that two colours are more expensive than the single colour.

Perhaps the most simple piece of office machinery is the stapling machine yet it is quite surprising the number of office employees who do not know how to use one. It is well worth the extra shillings to buy a good one which is guaranteed for 10 years.

This type of machine has several uses—it will:

- (1) Staple documents for permanent fastening.
- (2) Pin documents together for temporary fastening.
- (3) Tack notices to a notice-board.
- (4) Fix labels to boxes.
- (5) Can be used as a centre-stitcher for stapling down the centre of booklets.

The stapling capacity is usually 20 sheets but this can vary to 150 sheets depending upon the length of the leg of the staple. As poor staples can ruin a machine it is better to use the staples made by the stapler manufacturer.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 95

## Mr. Speaker's Seat

seat when he already sits for another, unless he is first granted the Chiltern Hundreds.

As for the arguments against the proposition that Mr. Speaker should not be opposed at a General Election, they are briefly as follows:

- (1) A Member returned to the House of Commons by an imaginary constituency and who by statute law (for such a proposition would require an Act of Parliament if it is to become operative) may not be opposed is not really a Parliamentary representative.
- (2) It might weaken the prestige and with it the authority of the Chair.
- (3) If the Speaker ceased to be an ordinary Member his relationship with other Members might undergo a subtle change tending to a weakening of that prestige and authority.
- (4) Again, there is the possibility that there may arise a Speaker who, during his tenure becomes obnoxious to the Opposition, and if such a Speaker is to be returned automatically at a General Election it would render more difficult

the undoubted constitutional right of opposing the re-election of the previous Speaker.

The late Clerk of the House concluded his statement to the 1939 Select Committee with this paragraph:

The increasing grip of the executive over parliamentary time has left the Chair the sole guardian of the freedom of debate; and if it is decided to recommend that no change should be made in the present method of electing the Speaker, it would be in the best interest of democratic government that all parties should agree to follow the practice, which has almost invariably been adopted during the past century, of not opposing the Speaker in his constituency at a General Election.

The Select Committee of 1939 accepted the views of the late Clerk. "To alter the status of the Speaker so that he ceased to be returned to the House of Commons by the same electoral methods as other Members . . . would be repugnant to the custom and tradition of the House. . . ."

Of the Labour Members of that Select Committee there were the following old 'Parliamentarians' — John Clynes, George Lansbury, Will Thorne and Robert Young.

New Edition

## CONDUCT OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

(Fourth Edition)

Price 7/- post free

This new edition has been extensively revised following the 1950 and 1951 General Elections. It is up-to-date, including recent changes in R.P. Regulations, the Electoral Registers Act, 1953, etc.

THE LABOUR PARTY, TRANSPORT HOUSE  
SMITH SQUARE - - - S.W.1

# NEW CANDIDATES AND AGENTS

## Candidates

THE following were endorsed as prospective Parliamentary candidates at the April meeting of the National Executive Committee :

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Plymouth, Sutton ..</b> | Mr. J. D. Richards |
| <b>North Dorset ..</b>     | Mr. H. J. Dutfield |
| <b>Heywood and</b>         |                    |
| <b>Royton</b>              | Mr. J. B. Hayes    |
| <b>Hornsey .. ..</b>       | Mr. F. E. Mostyn   |
| <b>North Somerset ..</b>   | Mr. E. F. Wilde    |
| <b>Sudbury and</b>         |                    |
| <b>Woodbridge</b>          | Mr. R. B. Stirling |
| <b>Farnham .. ..</b>       | Dr. J.             |
|                            | Greenwood-Turner   |
| <b>Kingston Upon Hull</b>  |                    |
| <b>North</b>               | Mr. J. Foord       |
| <b>Warwick and</b>         |                    |
| <b>Leamington</b>          | Mr. W. Wilson      |
| <b>Ayr .. ..</b>           | Mr. L. P. Thomas   |



### CO-OPERATIVE PARTY CANDIDATE RUNNING IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE LABOUR PARTY

**Billericay .. ..** Mrs. R. A. Smythe

## Agents

THE National Executive Committee recently has approved 10 agency appointments.

**Tom Anderson** fills the vacancy at Westbury, after service at Bishop Auckland and Jarrow. Aged 56, he has been a full-time agent since 1948, a party officer from 1935 and a member of the Labour Party since 1929.

**Arthur V. Clare**, aged 32, has been appointed to the new joint agency covering the Central Norfolk and Yarmouth constituencies. He was full-time agent at Barnett for 6 years prior to his appointment at Central Norfolk in 1954. His office will be situated in Yarmouth.

**Robert McDarmont**, a colliery ropeman, fills the vacancy at Jarrow. He is 50 years of age, and has had a good deal of experience in electoral work in this constituency as a party officer for the past 20 years.

**Donald A. Ranger** moves to Romford

from East Ham North, where he has been the agent for the past 6 years. He is 35 years of age and lives at Southend, where he was the full-time agent in 1950.

**Dennis J. Bryan**, aged 27, moves to Bristol North West from Chippenham, where he has been full-time agent for the past 7 years. He has conducted the last three General Election campaigns in that constituency.

**John G. Marsh**, aged 26, has recently completed one year as a trainee agent with the Derby Labour Party. He has now been appointed to the vacancy at Feltham, a new constituency created by the Boundary Commission and won by Labour at the General Election.

**William G. White**, more familiarly known as "Knocker", takes over the Borough of Norwich, and its two constituencies. A native of London, he has for the past 6½ years been full-time agent at Aylesbury.

**Benjamin Brennan**. For the past 5 years Mr. Brennan has been one of the organisers employed by the Newcastle-on-Tyne City Party. He is now to devote his full-time to the Newcastle-on-Tyne East constituency.

**Raymond Jones**, aged 41, a clerk, enters the full-time service of the Party as Assistant Organiser to the Birmingham Borough Labour Party. He was election agent in one of the Birmingham constituencies at the 1950 and 1951 General Elections.

**Thomas G. Simpson** has been a member of the Party for 8 years. He has now been appointed as full-time agent to the Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth Constituency Labour Party. Active in this area for a number of years, he was in control of the 1955 General Election in this constituency. A welder by trade, he is 30 years of age.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

(continued from page 82)

**AYLESBURY C.L.P.**—Applications are invited for the post of Secretary-Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Excellent housing accommodation available, office, clerical assistance and vehicle at disposal of agent. Application forms from **Mr. J. E. Batchelor, 27 Chessbury Road, Chessham, Bucks.** Applications to be returned by 5th June, 1956.

**CHIPPENHAM C.L.P.** invites applications for the post of Secretary-Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from **Mr. D. Bryan, The Labour Hall, Chippenham**, to whom they must be returned by 2nd June, 1956.



# Labour Youth Campaign is Launched

**P**LANs to organise young supporters in the Labour Party are taking shape and a vigorous campaign is being launched with this end in view.

Last month Mr. Alan Williams, the newly-appointed National Youth Officer, started work and already he has addressed several meetings in various parts of the country about the proposals of the National Executive Committee to organise the Party's young members in Youth sections.

Though the League of Youth at one time had over 800 branches and some 10,000 members, in recent years there was a big falling away, and at the time the decision was taken to transform League branches into Youth sections the number of branches had declined to about 200, most of them weak and ineffectual.

The elaborate national and regional machinery of the League proved both costly and latterly, at least, ineffective. Under the new arrangement there is to be no separate machinery above Youth sections attached to the Local or Constituency Labour Parties, though the Party at all levels is urged to assist in organising Youth and providing them with facilities to learn about the Party's policy and to enjoy fellowship in social activities.

Many adult members complain about the Party's lack of interest in the young, but the most bitter complaints have come from local parties which have never themselves been successful in organising young people. Until the job is tackled by the local parties there never will be a strong, virile Youth section of the Movement.

## **Often Isolated**

In the past the League of Youth branch was all too often isolated from the local party, the youngsters being left to their own devices. It was not surprising, therefore, that League of Youth members suffered from a feeling of frustration which not infrequently drove them into the arms of sectarians, such as the Trotskyists, who at least showed a constant interest in young Socialists.

This state of affairs must be remedied, and the Youth section made an integral part of the local party and regarded as one of its

special responsibilities. Not all members have the time or the inclination to bother themselves with young people, but there are in every party two or three persons with a lively interest in youth and a knack in handling them.

It is from these that the Youth Organisers and Liaison Officers should be recruited. Natural aptitude for leading young people is not enough, especially in a political Youth organisation, and, therefore, it is intended that training shall be provided for those who are to be leaders of the new Youth sections.

The Regional Councils are being asked to organise week-end schools at which guidance will be given to those who are to take on these important jobs. In addition, each region has been asked to organise several one-day schools each year for the training of Youth section leaders and officers.

The National Youth Officer will supply material concerning the preparation and carrying out of a programme of activities, and a Youth section handbook and organisation guides are in course of preparation.

## **Special Effort**

It is hoped during the membership campaign this year and next a special effort will be made to enrol young people and that local parties will have firmly established Youth sections to look after the interests of the new young recruits.

Special literature is being produced for the campaign, including a statement of Labour policy especially written for young people, posters and an illustrated broadsheet for mass distribution.

Some of the national activities associated with the League of Youth will be continued, and it is hoped, extended, but these will be open not merely to the members of the Youth sections, but to all Party members under 26 years of age.

They include the National Speaking Competition in which the 'Daily Herald' previously has co-operated, the National Summer Schools, and camps and other activities connected with the International Union of Socialist Youth with which the Labour Party has maintained its affiliations.

Whatever might be done nationally and regionally will have no point unless a large number of new young members are brought into the local parties, and this is the job that only the local parties can tackle.



# PARTY ORGANISATION REQUISITES

## PRICE LIST

### BOOKS:

- How the Labour Party Works — 1 copy 8d. ; 12, 5s. 6d. ; 24, 10s. 6d.  
 Guide to Public Speaking — 1 copy 1s. 8d. ; 6, 8s. ; 12, 15s.  
 Conduct of Parliamentary Elections — 7s.  
 Conduct of Local Elections — 1 copy 1s. 9d. ; 6, 7s. 6d. ; 12, 13s. 6d.  
 (state England & Wales, or London, or Scotland)  
 Labour Organiser (monthly) — 1 copy 6s. 6d. per annum.

### LEAFLETS:

- Dear Neighbour (membership leaflet) — 1,000 copies 25s.  
 Family Party (membership leaflet) — 1,000 copies 65s.  
 Invitation to a Party (appeal to "Y" voters) — 1,000 copies 30s.  
 Me, an Idealist? (Youth leaflet) — 1,000 copies 25s.  
 Trade Unionists and Politics — 100 copies 3s. 6d. ; 500, 15s.  
 About the Labour Party — 6 copies 6d. ; 12, 1s. ; 50, 3s. 100, 5s. 6d.  
 Members Transfer Form — 100 copies 6d. ; 1,000, 4s.  
 Postal Voting — 1,000 copies 10s.  
 Postal Votes (12-page pamphlet) — 1 copy 4d. ; 12, 1s. 8d. ; 50, 5s.

Collectors' Books — 3d. each.

Collectors' Pads — 6d. each.

Membership Application Cards — 1,000 copies 20s.

Stamps for Membership Cards in booklet form

(supplied to Party officials only).

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 360 Stamps at 1d. printed in Red .. .. . | 3d. per booklet |
| 120 " " 2d. " " Blue .. .. .             | 2d. " "         |
| 120 " " 3d. " " Green .. .. .            | 2d. " "         |
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